

New Barns Rectory Farm Moreton Lane Northmoor Oxfordshire



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



October 2008

Client: Robert and Mary Florey

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Date: 18th October 2008

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

In May and June 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4167 0240). The work was commissioned by Robert Florey in advance of construction of a new cattle yard and machinery store. The area is on the edge of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 141) which is a site of extensive crop marks dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

The watching brief revealed a system of Romano-British boundary and drainage ditches showing evidence of multi-phase use, together with a small cluster of four hut circles also dating to the Romano-British period. While much evidence of activity was observed, the lack of evidence for domestic occupation encountered, suggests that this area was on the margins of the nearby settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between May and June 2007, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 4167 0240). The work was commissioned by Robert Florey in respect of a planning application for construction of a new cattle yard and machinery store (Planning Application No. 05/2178/P/FP) and the excavation of associated service trenches.
- 1.1.2 The development area lies within the boundary of a Scheduled Ancient Monument and English Heritage (EH) requested that an archaeological condition be attached to the planning permission.
- 1.1.3 A project brief was set by Hugh Coddington, the Deputy Council Archaeological Officer representing West Oxfordshire District Council requiring that a watching brief be maintained during the course of the groundworks (OCAS, 2006).
- 1.1.4 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2007).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located approximately 7.5 km south-west of Oxford (Fig. 1). The development area is located 0.4 km south-west of the village of Northmoor on the western side of Moreton Lane, and was in use as arable land.
- 1.2.2 The site is an area of level ground, measuring approximately 0.9 hectare, at a height of 63 m above OD. The underlying geology is alluvium over First terrace gravels (Geological survey of Great Britain, sheet no 236).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA, 2006) and is reproduced below.
- 1.3.2 The site lies within the boundary of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 141 (b)) which consists of an extensive area of crop marks identified through aerial photography. These cropmarks, discussed by Benson and Miles (1974, p48-49), and more recently replotted by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, England (RCHME), include trackways and rectilinear enclosures with probable domestic elements and with a very complex pattern of less regular features, perhaps at least part of Iron Age date, a little to the west.
- 1.3.3 Romano-British pottery recovered from the area suggests a broad Roman date for some of the features. Roman pottery and a coin were found at SP 413 028 (Oxfordshire SMR PRN 1165), c200 m to the north-west of the present development. Iron Age and Roman settlement enclosures have been excavated at Watkins Farm, Northmoor, a little over 1 km to the north-east.
- 1.3.4 In general the site forms part of the continuum of complex cropmarks found across the wide gravel terraces located between the Lower Windrush and the Thames in the Stanton Harcourt - Northmoor area.

Earlier Archaeological Work

- 1.3.5 In 1995 OA carried out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a farm building immediately to the north-east of the current development area. This identified some possible prehistoric features together with ditches dating to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries. A possible medieval phase was also tentatively identified. A quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fills of the ditches (OA, 1995)

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 2.1.2 To establish the paleo-environmental potential of any features or deposits located within the area of the watching brief.
- 2.1.3 To preserve by record any deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed during the course of the groundworks.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The works consisted 3 main phases of work. The first phase consisted of topsoil stripping over an “L” shaped area measuring approximately 100 m by 85 m, with the stripped area measuring 30 m wide (Fig. 2). This was achieved using a tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6 m wide toothless grading bucket. Stripping proceeded in spits, down to either the terrace gravel or to the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. After stripping the area was covered with crushed demolition rubble. The second phase was the excavation of foundation pits within the stripped area. After the foundation pits had been excavated a service trench was also excavated (Fig. 3)
- 2.2.2 A plan showing the location and extent of any archaeological features was drawn at a scale of 1:100, and where excavated, their sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

Ditches

- 3.1.1 The underlying natural, terrace gravel (3) was encountered at a depth of 0.35 m below the current ground level. Within the western edge of the site this was overlaid by a 0.15 m deep layer of yellow-brown sandy clay, a probable peri-glacial deposit. The natural was cut by the north-south running Ditch (133) running across the western corner off the site (Section 34). This was a wide, shallow, feature measuring 1.5 m wide by 0.4 m deep. This was filled by a 0.15 m deep layer of light grey-brown sandy silt clay (135), overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown clay silt (134).
- 3.1.2 Running parallel to Ditch 133 and located approximately 11 m to the east was Ditch (141). This feature followed a true north-south alignment, running from the southern baulk before running out in the centre of the north-western baulk (Section 34). Ditch 141 had steeply sloping sides with a flat base and measured 2 m wide by 0.5 m deep. The base of the feature was filled by a 0.15 m deep layer of light grey clay silt (143) overlain by a 0.35 m deep layer of yellow brown clay silt (142).
- 3.1.3 Located 18 m further to the east, and running parallel to 133 and 141 was a 2.6 m wide by 0.4 m deep ditch with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (61) (Section 18). The base of this feature was filled by a 0.22 m deep layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt clay (60) overlaid by a 0.18 m deep layer of grey brown silt clay (59). This ditch ran north-south across the full length of the site.
- 3.1.4 The natural was also cut by a later phase of activity, Ditch (76) (Section 34). This ran north-south but cut through the fills of Ditches 133 and 141 suggesting that they had fallen into disuse by this time. This ditch measured 2 m wide by 0.4 m deep. The base of this feature was filled by a 0.2 m deep layer of light grey-brown sandy clay (75), overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown silt clay (74). The western edge of this

feature had been truncated by a later ditch (73) which follows the same alignment (Section 34). Ditch (73) was a 1.3 m wide by 0.4 m deep linear feature with a wide, shallow “V” shaped profile. This was filled with a 0.2 m deep layer of yellow-brown sandy silt clay (72) overlain by a 0.2 m deep layer of dark yellow-brown sandy silt clay (71) and may represent a recut of Ditch 76.

- 3.1.5 Running parallel to Ditches 73 and 76, and located 20 m to the east and truncating the western edge of Ditch 61 was a 2 m wide by 0.45 m deep ditch (55) (Section 18). This was filled by a 0.2 m deep deposit of light yellow-brown sandy silt clay (54) overlain by a 0.2 m deep deposit of grey silt clay (53) and may represent a recut of Ditch 61.
- 3.1.6 Probably associated with this phase of activity and located 2.5 m to the west of Ditch 73 were Ditches (49) and (52) (Section 34). Ditch 49 was 0.5 m deep by 1.4 m wide with steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by a light grey-brown clay silt (48).
- 3.1.7 Ditch 52 was 1.5 m wide by 0.5 m deep feature and was filled by a 0.35 m deep deposit of light grey silt clay (51) overlain by a 0.2 m deep layer of yellow-brown silt clay (50).
- 3.1.8 All these earlier ditches were cut by a later phase of ditch alignment represented by Ditches (110) and (150) (Section 27 and 18 respectively). Ditch 110 measured 1.3 m wide by 0.2 m deep and had steeply sloping sides with a flat base. It was filled by a grey-brown silt clay (109). This feature ran in from the south-western corner of the site, crossing the earlier ditches at right angles. Located 72 m to the north and cutting Ditches 55 and 61 was Ditch 150. This measured 1.2 m wide by 0.4 m deep with a wide “bowl” shaped profile. Sealing the base of this feature was a 0.1 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy clay silt (152), overlain by a 0.3 m deep deposit of brown clay silt (151). Possibly part of this alignment was Ditch (70). This was a short length of ditch measuring 5 m long, 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep feature and had been excavated with a steeply sloping “V” shaped profile. The base of the ditch was filled by a 0.15 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy clay silt (69). The remainder of the ditch was filled by a very dark grey loamy clay silt (68).
- 3.1.9 Probably also part of this phase of activity were Ditches (126), (129) and (132). These were located in the south-eastern corner of the site and ran roughly parallel to Ditch 110.
- 3.1.10 Ditch (126) measured 1.7 m wide by 0.5 m deep. It had steeply sloping sides, both with a distinct step, leading down to a flat base (Section 31). It was filled with a 0.28 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy clay silt (125), overlaid with a 0.22 m deep deposit of grey-brown silt clay (124). Located 1 m to the north, and running parallel to Ditch 126 was Ditch (129). This measured 2.1 m wide by 0.42 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Section 32). Sealing the base of the feature was a 0.22 m deep layer of light grey silt clay (128), the remainder of the ditch was filled by a 0.2 m deep deposit of dark grey clay silt (127).

- 3.1.11 Located 0.5 m north of Ditch 129 and running parallel to Ditches 126 and 129 was Ditch 132. This was a 1.7 m wide by 0.4 m deep feature with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Section 33). This was filled by a 0.2 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy clay silt (131) overlaid by a 0.2 m deep layer of dark yellow brown silt clay (130) (Section 33).
- 3.1.12 The fills of these ditches were cut by a later feature, Ditch 144 (Section 34). This was a “L” shaped feature, which ran east-west in from the western baulk of the site before turning and running north-south cutting the fill of Ditch 110. This ditch measured 1.6 m wide by 0.5 m deep and was filled by a 0.2 m deep deposit of dark yellow-brown silt clay (146) overlain by a 0.25 m deep layer of dark grey clay silt (145) and probably represents a field boundary.
- 3.1.13 The finally phase of ditch activity is represented by Ditches 136 and 138. These both ran north-south, slowly converging to the south (Section 34).
- 3.1.14 Ditch 136 measured 1.2 m wide by 0.2 m deep and was excavated with steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled with a dark yellow brown sandy silt clay (137). Ditch 138 was located to the east of Ditch 136 and measured 1.5 m wide by 0.6 m deep. The base of this feature was filled by a 0.3 m deep layer of dark yellow-brown silt clay (140) overlain with a 0.3 m deep deposit of very dark grey clay silt (139).
- 3.1.15 Cutting across the uppermost fill of Ditch 136 was a curvilinear feature (45). This measured 1.4 m wide by 0.35 m deep and was 8 m long (Sections 16, 17 and 34). The base of this feature was filled by a 0.1 m deep layer of light grey sandy clay silt (44) overlain by a 0.2 m deep layer of very dark grey clay silt (43).
- 3.1.16 All the fills from the ditches produced Romano-British dated pottery suggesting that they were deposited within that period, however it was not possible to assign specific dates to any deposits.

Other features

- 3.1.17 Other features observed during the course of the watching brief were four ring ditches, six pits and seven tree throw holes.
- 3.1.18 Within the northern end of the site a ring ditch measuring 3.6 m in diameter with a 0.8 m wide gap in it's circumference was observed. On excavation it could be seen to comprise of a “V” shaped ditch (5), measuring 0.65 m wide by 0.35 m deep (Sections 1 and 2).
- 3.1.19 This ditch was filled with a dark grey-brown clay silt (4), which produced pottery dating to the Romano-British period.
- 3.1.20 Located approximately 2 m to the south-east was a similar ring ditch measuring 4 m in diameter. This had a similar gap in it's circumference to feature 5, which was likewise similarly orientated to the east. On excavation this feature was seen to be a

“V” shaped ditch measuring 0.75 m wide by 0.35 m deep (39). This was filled by a grey-brown silt clay (38) (Sections 12 and 19).

- 3.1.21 Positioned 3.5 m east, and running parallel to, Ditch 138 was a shallow cut, Ditch (21) (Sections 5 and 20). This was 0.4 m wide by 0.1 m deep and filled by a very dark grey clay silt (20). This feature ran north-south across the site for approximately 12 m length before terminating. The central portion of this feature was cut by a ring ditch (19), 3.5 m diameter with a 1 m wide gap in its circumference, positioned towards the east. On excavation this could be seen to be a “V” shaped ditch 0.8 m wide by 0.4 m deep (153) filled by a dark grey silt clay (154), which produced fragments of Romano-British pottery (Sections 5, 6, 9 and 11).
- 3.1.22 The southern terminus of Ditch 21 was cut by a ring ditch (106) approximately 5 m in diameter with a 1 m wide gap in its circumference orientated to the east. This ditch was 0.9 m wide and 0.2 m deep, and was filled by a dark grey silt clay (155) which contained Romano-British pottery. This feature was cut by a later rectangular rubbish pit (65) (Section 20). This measured 1.5 m by 1.2 m by 0.3 m deep. This was filled by a dark grey sandy clay silt (64) which produced fragments of Romano-British pottery.
- 3.1.23 Located 2.5 m south of (106) was a small circular pit (17). This measured 1.3 m in diameter by 0.4 m deep and had steeply sloping sides with a flat base (Section 4). The base of the pit was filled with a 0.12 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy silt (16) with the remainder of the pit filled with a very dark grey clay silt (15) which produced fragments of Romano-British pottery. This feature is probably the truncated base of a later rubbish pit.
- 3.1.24 Located 1.5 m east of (106) was a circular pit measuring 2.1 m in diameter by 0.4 m deep (25) (Sections 7 and 8). This feature had shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Sealing the base of the pit was a 0.1 m deep deposit of yellow-brown clay sand (24). This was overlaid by a 0.15 m deep layer of light grey-brown silt clay (22). Filling the remainder of the pit was a 0.18 m deep layer of dark grey clay silt (22) which produced Romano-British pottery.
- 3.1.25 Located centrally within the stripped area was a circular feature, 2.3 m in diameter (30). This was 0.5 m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Section 10). The bottom 0.4 m depth of the pit was filled by a dark yellow-brown sandy clay (29) which contained many flecks of burnt clay. The top 0.1 m depth of the feature was filled with a very dark grey-brown clay silt (28) which produced fragments of Romano-British pottery.
- 3.1.26 Excavated within the upper fill (142) of Ditch 141 was a rectangular feature measuring 2.7 m by 1.9 m (11). This had very steeply sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.5 m deep (Sections 13 and 14). The base of the pit was sealed by a 0.35 m deep deposit of grey-brown silt clay (35) which contained Romano-British pottery, charcoal flecking and many patches of red clay, possibly decomposed daub. This was overlain by a 0.15 m deep layer of very dark grey silt clay (34) which also produced fragments of Romano-British pottery. The presence of quantities of the red clay suggested that the feature might possibly be a collapsed oven, however there

were no indications of a lining within the fills, or of burning to deposits adjacent to the feature.

- 3.1.27 Cut into the upper fill 137 of Ditch 136 was a 0.9 m diameter circular pit (118). This had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Section 29). The base of the feature was filled with a 0.1 m deep deposit of light grey-brown sandy silt clay (119). This was overlain by a 0.14 m deep layer of yellow-brown silt sand (120). The remainder of the pit was filled with a 0.13 m deep deposit of dark grey silt clay (121). This produced fragments of Romano-British pottery and fragments of daub suggesting that this was a rubbish pit.
- 3.1.28 To the east of Ditch 138 were two circular features (117) and (123). These measured 2.1 m and 2.4 m in diameter respectively (Sections 28 and 30). Both had a very shallow profile measuring 0.2 m deep. Both were filled with a grey-brown clay silt (116) and (122). Although both fills contained Romano-British pottery, the shape of their profiles suggest that they were both tree throw holes.

Service Trenches

- 3.1.29 On the 27th June 2007, the final phase of work was undertaken on the site with the excavation of approximately 100m length of 0.5 m wide by 0.7 m deep trenching to connect with the existing water mains (Fig. 3).
- 3.1.30 Exposed within the trench were three east-west running features. Ditch 157 measured 1.9 m wide and was in excess of 0.3 m deep, and was filled by a light grey clay silt (156). Located 2.5 m to the south-west was a second ditch (159) running on the same alignment. This measured 1.6 m in width and was filled by a grey-brown clay silt (158), whose depth was also in excess of 0.3 m. When plotted against a plan of the 1995 excavations they could be seen to be probable continuations of features observed, ditches 4/7 and 6/5 respectively.
- 3.1.31 Located approximately 7 m north-east of Ditch 159 was an east-west running feature (161). This was exposed in two lengths of the service trench enabling its alignment to be projected. This feature measured 1.2 m wide, was in excess of 0.3 m deep and was filled by a dark grey-brown clay silt (160). From the profile of the feature it was concluded that this was also a boundary ditch. Although this feature was not observed in the 1995 excavations, its alignment suggests that it was contemporary with both 157 and 159 and Ditches 4/7 and 6/5.
- 3.1.32 Because of the limited depth of excavation of the service trench, the full depth and profile of these features could not be determined. No dating evidence was recovered during this phase of excavation.
- 3.1.33 These ditches are probably associated with the north-south running drove road observed within the main area of the watching brief, although the area of possible intersection was not excavated, leaving the relationships unresolved.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during both the stripping of the site, and the excavation of any features. A metal detector was used after sampling of the site in order to recover any metallic objects outside the areas of excavation. Recovered finds included large quantities of pottery dating to the Romano-British period, animal bone, 2 coins, a knife blade, 5 unidentified iron objects and a fragment of quern stone.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 3.3.1 Samples of material were taken from the areas of the ring ditches and from selected ditch fills. These produced examples of charred plant remains including small quantities of glume wheat grains, chaff and small weed seeds. A small number of flax seeds (*Linum usitatissimum*) were observed in three of the samples.
- 3.3.2 A number of snails were recovered, and include *Vallonia* sp., a snail typical of grassland, *Carychium* sp. found in leaf litter, rotten wood and grass roots etc, as well as *Lymnaea* sp. (pond snails) all of which suggest that this area was arable or pastoral in nature during the period of the ditch excavations.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 All the dating evidence recovered from the features identified during the course of the watching brief is Romano-British in date (1st to 3rd century) suggesting that the activity within the development area was confined to that period.
- 4.1.2 The watching brief showed that two of the north-south aligned ditches, (133 and 141), run roughly parallel 16 m apart and may form two phases of a drove road. This roadway appears to pre-date the other set of north-south aligned ditches (49, 136 and 138) which cross the south-west corner of the site at a slightly different alignment. These features appear to be boundary ditches, however the precise relationship between the drove road and these boundary ditches could not be established during this phase of work.
- 4.1.3 A series of east-west ditches (110, 144 and 150) appear to be part of a later phase of activity (although still Romano-British in date) and may possibly reflect a division of the land into smaller parcels and abandonment of the drove road.
- 4.1.4 The small size of the four ring ditches and the absence of any hearths suggest that they probably define the sites of stack rings. These are common features in late Iron Age and Roman rural settlements in the upper Thames Valley. Contemporary examples include those found at Claydon Pike (Miles et al, 2007, 121 and fig. 5.14).
- 4.1.5 Examination of the aerial photographs show that any concentrations of activity suggesting settlements were located 200m to both the east and west. This together with the low density of rubbish pits and the absence of water holes (compared to other sites nearby such as Gill Mill) appear to suggest that the development area was on the margins of any Romano-British settlement.

- 4.1.6 Examination of records from the 1995 watching brief failed to achieve any direct correlation between the features observed then and the ones recorded during the 2007 watching brief, although alignments and profiles of features observed in 1995 correspond to those observed in 2007 suggesting that they are part of the same field and ditch boundary system, possibly associated with ditches 55 and 61. The area of the probable interception between these ditches was located within the unexcavated area between the 1995 and 2007 developments and was not observed during this phase of work.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.25 m	-	Modern ploughsoil	Pottery	C19th/ C20th
2	Layer	0.1 m	-	Subsoil, earlier ploughsoil	Pottery	C19th
3	Layer	> 0.5 m	-	Natural, terrace gravel	-	-
4	Fill	0.3 m	0.5 m	Fill of circular ditch	Pottery, bone	Romano- British
5	Cut	0.3 m	3.6 m	Ring ditch, probable stack ring	-	Romano- British
6	Fill	0.22 m	1.3 m	Upper fill of ditch	Pottery, Bone	Romano- British
7	Fill	0.12 m	0.7 m	Layer of ditch fill	Pottery, bone	Romano- British
8	Cut	0.4 m	2.3 m	Recut of boundary ditch 14	-	Romano- British
9	Fill	0.2 m	2.3 m	Primary fill of Ditch 8	Pottery, bone	Romano- British
10	Fill	0.35 m	0.8 m	Upper fill of Ditch 37	-	Romano- British
11	Cut	0.5 m	1.9 m	Rectangular pit	-	Romano- British
12	Fill	0.22 m	0.6 m	Upper fill of Ditch 14	-	Romano- British
13	Fill	0.12 m	0.8 m	Primary fill of Ditch 14	-	Romano- British
14	Cut	0.4 m	1.0 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano- British
15	Fill	0.25 m	1.3 m	Upper fill of Pit 17	Pottery, bone	Romano- British
16	Fill	0.12 m	0.8 m	Primary fill of Pit 17	Bone	Romano- British
17	Cut	0.4 m	1.3 m	Circular rubbish pit	-	Romano- British
18	Fill	0.4 m	0.8 m	Ditch fill	Pottery	Romano- British
19	Cut	0.4 m	3.0 m	Ring ditch, probable stack ring	-	Romano- British
20	Fill	0.1 m	0.4 m	Fill of Ditch 21	Pottery	Romano- British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
21	Cut	0.1 m	0.4 m	Shallow ditch	-	Romano-British
22	Fill	0.18 m	2.1 m	Upper fill of Pit 25	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
23	Fill	0.15 m	1.4 m	layer of fill in Pit 25	-	Romano-British
24	Fill	0.1 m	1.3 m	Primary fill of Pit 25	-	Romano-British
25	Cut	0.4 m	2.1 m	Circular rubbish pit	-	Romano-British
26	Fill	0.33 m	0.8 m	Ditch fill	Pottery	Romano-British
27	Cut	0.33 m	0.8 m	Terminus of Circular ditch	-	Romano-British
28	Fill	0.12 m	2.3 m	Upper fill of Pit 30	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
29	Fill	0.4 m	1.8 m	Primary fill of Pit 30	Pottery	Romano-British
30	Cut	0.5 m	2.3 m	Circular rubbish pit	-	Romano-British
31	Fill	0.4 m	0.8 m	Upper fill of Ditch 33	Pottery	Romano-British
32	Fill	0.1 m	0.5 m	Primary fill of Ditch 33	-	Romano-British
33	Cut	0.5 m	0.8 m	Terminal of circular ditch	-	Romano-British
34	Fill	0.15 m	1.9 m	Upper fill of Pit 11	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
35	Fill	0.35 m	1.9 m	Primary fill of pit 11	Pottery, bone, daub	Romano-British
36	Fill	0.15 m	1.8 m	Primary fill of Ditch 37	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
37	Cut	0.5 m	2.0 m	Boundary ditch, continuation of Ditch 14	-	Romano-British
38	Fill	0.5 m	0.8 m	Fill of Ditch 39	Pottery	Romano-British
39	Cut	0.5 m	0.8 m	Ring ditch, probable stack ring	-	Romano-British
40	Fill	0.3 m	1.5 m	Upper fill of Ditch 42	Pottery	Romano-British
41	Fill	0.2 m	1.1 m	Primary fill of Ditch 42	Pottery	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
42	Cut	0.5 m	1.5 m	Boundary/ field ditch	-	Romano-British
43	Fill	0.25 m	1.4 m	Upper fill f ditch 45	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
44	Fill	0.1 m	0.9 m	Primary fill of ditch 45	-	Romano-British
45	Cut	0.35 m	1.4 m	“Banana” shaped curvilinear ditch	-	Romano-British
46	Fill	0.25 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of Ditch 66	-	Romano-British
47	Fill	0.2 m	1.4 m	Primary fill of Ditch 66	-	Romano-British
48	Fill	0.12 m	1.4 m	Fill of Ditch 49	-	Romano-British
49	Cut	0.5 m	1.4 m	North-south boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
50	Fill	0.2 m	1.1	Upper fill of Ditch 52	-	Romano-British
51	Fill	0.35 m	1.5 m	Primary fill of Ditch 52	-	Romano-British
52	Cut	0.5 m	1.5 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
53	Fill	0.2 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of ditch 55	Pottery	Romano-British
54	Fill	0.2 m	0.8 m	Primary fill of ditch 55	Pottery	Romano-British
55	Cut	0.25 m	2 m	SW-NE running boundary ditch, recut of ditch 61	-	Romano-British
56	Fill	0.3 m	1.2 m	Upper fill of Ditch 58	Pottery	Romano-British
57	Fill	0.1 m	0.6 m	Primary fill of Ditch 58	-	Romano-British
58	Cut	0.4 m	1.2 m	East-west running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
59	Fill	0.18 m	1.4 m	Upper fill of Ditch 61	Pottery	Romano-British
60	Fill	0.22 m	2.4 m	Primary fill of ditch 61	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
61	Cut	0.4 m	2.6 m	North-south running Boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
62	Fill	0.28 m	1.04 m	Fill of Ditch 63	Pottery, bone, iron	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
63	Cut	0.28 m	1.04 m	Circular ditch	-	Romano-British
64	Fill	0.32 m	1.2 m	Upper fill of Pit 65	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
65	Cut	0.32 m	1.2 m	Rectangular rubbish pit	-	Romano-British
66	Cut	0.35 m	1.6 m	North-south running boundary ditch, recut of Ditch 49	-	Romano-British
67	Layer	0.12 m	-	Probable peri-glacial deposit	-	-
68	Fill	0.25 m	1.0 m	Upper fill of Ditch 70	Pottery, bone, quern stone	Romano-British
69	Fill	0.35 m	0.5 m	Primary fill of Ditch 70	Pottery	Romano-British
70	Cut	0.4 m	1.0 m	North-south aligned boundary ditch, recut of Ditch 73	-	Romano-British
71	Fill	0.2 m	1.3 m	Upper fill of ditch 73	Pottery	Romano-British
72	Fill	0.2 m	1.1 m	Primary fill of Ditch 73	Pottery	Romano-British
73	Ditch	0.4 m	1.3 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
74	Fill	0.3 m	1.8 m	Upper fill of Ditch 76	Pottery	Romano-British
75	Fill	0.2 m	2.0 m	Primary fill of Ditch 76	Pottery	Romano-British
76	Cut	0.4 m	2.0 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
77	Fill	0.3 m	1.8 m	Fill of Ditch 78	Pottery	Romano-British
78	Cut	0.3 m	2.0 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
79	Fill	0.5 m	1.9 m	Fill of Ditch 80	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
80	Cut	0.5 m	1.9 m	North-south running boundary ditch, recut of Ditch 83	-	Romano-British
81	Fill	0.3 m	1.4 m	Upper fill of ditch 83	-	Romano-British
82	Fill	0.2 m	1.4 m	Primary fill of Ditch 83	-	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
83	Cut	0.5 m	1.6 m	North-south running boundary ditch, recut of ditch 78	-	Romano-British
84	Fill	0.3 m	1.5 m	Upper fill of ditch 86	-	Romano-British
85	Fill	0.3 m	1.3 m	Primary fill of Ditch 86	-	Romano-British
86	Cut	0.6 m	1.5 m	Last phase of north-south running ditch recuts	-	Romano-British
87	Fill	0.1 m	1.2 m	Primary fill of Pit 65	-	Romano-British
88	Fill	0.2 m	1.9 m	Upper fill of Ditch 90	-	Romano-British
89	Fill	0.15 m	1.7 m	Primary fill of ditch 90	-	Romano-British
90	Cut	0.4 m	1.9 m	North-south running boundary ditch, recut of Ditch 92	-	Romano-British
91	Fill	0.15 m	0.9 m	Fill of Ditch 92	-	Romano-British
92	Cut	0.15 m	0.9 m	North-south aligned boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
93	Cut	0.21 m	0.88 m	Terminus of circular ditch	-	Romano-British
94	Fill	0.21 m	0.88 m	Fill of Ditch 93	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
95	Cut	0.29 m	0.9 m	Terminus of circular ditch	-	Romano-British
96	Fill	0.29 m	0.9 m	Fill of Ditch 95	Pottery, flint, tile	Romano-British
97	Fill	0.4 m	1.9 m	Upper fill of Ditch 99	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
98	Fill	0.2 m	1.9 m	Primary fill of Ditch 99	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
99	Cut	0.6 m	1.9 m	North-south running boundary ditch, part of Group no. 138	-	Romano-British
100	Fill	0.2 m	1.5 m	Upper fill of Ditch 102	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
101	Fill	0.1 m	1.4 m	Primary fill of Ditch 102	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
102	Cut	0.35 m	1.5 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
103	Fill	0.3 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of ditch 105	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
104	Fill	0.2 m	1.4 m	Primary fill of Ditch 105	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
105	Cut	0.5 m	1.6 m	Later phase of ditch, defining north and east sides of plot	-	Romano-British
106	Group no.	0.5 m	3.0 m	Ring ditch, probable stack ring	-	Romano-British
107	Cut	0.11 m	0.9 m	Truncated base of pit	-	Romano-British
108	Fill	0.11 m	0.9 m	Fill of Pit 107	Pottery, brick	Romano-British
109	Fill	0.15 m	1.3 m	Fill of Ditch 110	Pottery	Romano-British
110	Cut	0.15 m	1.3 m	East-west running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
111	Fill	0.2 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of ditch 113	-	Romano-British
112	Fill	0.1 m	1.6 m	Primary fill of Ditch 113	-	Romano-British
113	Cut	0.3 m	1.6 m	North-south running boundary ditch, recut of Ditch 115	-	Romano-British
114	Fill	0.12 m	1.3 m	Fill of Ditch 115	-	Romano-British
115	Cut	0.3 m	1.3 m	North-south running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
116	Fill	0.18 m	2.1 m	Fill of tree throw hole 117	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
117	Cut	0.18 m	2.1 m	Tree throw hole	-	Romano-British
118	Cut	0.26 m	0.9 m	Truncated base of rubbish pit	-	Romano-British
119	Fill	0.1 m	0.9 m	Primary fill of pit 118	-	Romano-British
120	Fill	0.14 m	0.9 m	Layer of fill within Pit 118	-	Romano-British
121	Fill	0.13 m	0.9 m	Upper fill of pit 118	Pottery, daub	Romano-British
122	Fill	0.2 m	2.4 m	Fill of tree throw hole 123	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
123	Cut	0.2 m	2.4 m	Tree throw hole	-	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
124	Fill	0.22 m	1.7 m	Upper fill of Ditch 126	-	Romano-British
125	Fill	0.28 m	1.4 m	Primary fill of Ditch 126	-	Romano-British
126	Cut	0.5 m	1.7 m	East-west aligned boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
127	Fill	0.2 m	2.1 m	Upper fill of Ditch 129	-	Romano-British
128	Fill	0.2 m	1.7 m	Primary fill of Ditch 129	-	Romano-British
129	Cut	0.42 m	2.1 m	East-west running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
130	Fill	0.2 m	1.7 m	Upper fill of Ditch 132	-	Romano-British
131	Fill	0.2 m	1.5 m	Primary Fill of Ditch 132	-	Romano-British
132	Cut	0.4 m	1.7 m	East-west running boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
133	Group no	0.4 m	1.9 m	Group no for Ditch cuts 90 and 113	-	Romano-British
134	Group no	0.2 m	1.9 m	Upper fill of Ditch 133, comprises Fills 88 and 111	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
135	Group no	0.2 m	1.9 m	Primary fill of ditch 133, comprises Fills 89 and 112	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
136	Group no	0.3 m	1.3 m	Group no for Ditch cuts 92 and 115	-	Romano-British
137	Group no	0.3 m	1.3 m	Fill of Ditch 136, Comprises Fills 91 and 114	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
138	Group no	0.6 m	1.9 m	Group no for Ditch cuts 8, 86 and 99	-	Romano-British
139	Group no	0.4 m	1.9 m	Upper fill of Ditch 138, comprises Fills 6, 84 and 97	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
140	Group no	0.2 m	1.9 m	Primary fill of Ditch 138, comprises Fills 9, 85 and 98	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
141	Group no	0.5 m	1.6 m	Group no for Ditch cuts 14, 37 and 83	-	Romano-British
142	Group no	0.3 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of Ditch 141, comprises Fills 10, 12 and 81	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
143	Group no	0.2 m	1.6 m	Primary fill of Ditch 141, comprises Fills 13, 36 and 82	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
144	Group no	0.5 m	1.6 m	Group no for Ditches 80 and 105	-	Romano-British

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
145	Group no	0.3 m	1.6 m	Upper fill of Ditch 144, comprises Fill 102	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
146	Group no	0.2 m	1.6 m	Primary fill of Ditch 144, comprises Fills 79 and 103	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
147	Group no	0.4 m	1.5 m	Group no for Ditches 83 and 102	-	Romano-British
148	Group no	0.3 m	1.5 m	Upper fill of Ditch 147, comprises Fills 81 and 100	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
149	Group no	0.2 m	1.5 m	Primary fill of Ditch 147, comprises Fills 82 and 101	Pottery, bone	Romano-British
150	Group no	0.4 m	0.9 m	Group no for Ditches 42 and 58	-	Romano-British
151	Group no	0.3 m	0.9 m	Upper fill of Ditch 150, comprises Fills 40 and 56	Pottery	Romano-British
152	Group no	0.1 m	0.9 m	Primary fill of Ditch 150, comprises Fills 41 and 57	-	Romano-British
153	Group no.	0.35 m	0.8 m	Circular ditch, probable hut circle, comprises 19, 27 and 33	-	Romano-British
154	Group no.	0.35 m	0.8 m	Fill of 153, comprises Fills 18, 26 and 32	-	Romano-British
155	Group no.	0.21 m	0.9 m	Fill of 106, comprises Fills 94 and 96	-	Romano-British

APPENDIX 2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING**4.2 Evaluation of charred plant macrofossils from Romano-British features.**

*by Rachel Scales and Wendy Smith
Oxford Archaeology*

- 4.2.1 Nine bulk soil samples for waterlogged and charred plant remains were taken from well-dated archaeological features during evaluation excavations at Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire. Most features were flooded at the time of excavation (Sims pers. comm).
- 4.2.2 Bulk soil sampling for charred and waterlogged plant remains was carried out in order to establish:
- if charred plant remains (CPR) and waterlogged (WPR) are present and of interpretable value
 - if CPR are present, do they provide any information/ patterns for the way burnt material was disposed of on site
 - if CPR/ WPR are present, do they provide information on agricultural activities and/or the diet or economy
 - if CPR/ WPR are present, do they provide information on the surrounding environment
 - if charcoal is abundant, would this provide information on fuel selection, building materials, etc.

Method

- 4.2.3 All bulk soil samples collected for waterlogged/charred plant remains were 40 litres in volume. Oxford Archaeology Environmental officers took 1 litre sub-samples from each sample and processed them for waterlogged plant remains. This was done by hand flotation. The resulting flots (the material which floats) were sieved to 200µm. Oxford Archaeology Environmental Officers then processed 20 litres of each sample using water flotation and the resulting flot was sieved to 250µm and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) was sieved to 500µm. Sample flots and heavy residues for charred plant remains were dried in a heated room at approximately 30°C. The dried heavy residues were sorted by eye for charred plant remains, along with other ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, charcoal, molluscs, etc...) and artefacts. Small quantities of CPR were noted from five of the residues (sample no's 3, 4, 5, 6, 8). Animal bones, burnt clay, and pottery were also recovered from the residues.
- 4.2.4 This evaluation is based on samples taken from a series of pit and ditch fills (Table 1) from a Romano-British settlement on the edge of extensive field systems.

Table 1. Description of contexts from which CPR/WPR bulk samples were taken.

Sample No.	Context No.	Description
1	97	Ditch fill
2	96	Ring ditch fill
3	26	Ring ditch fill
4	20	Ditch fill
5	34	Upper fill of pit
6	103	Ditch fill
7	43	Ditch fill
8	4	Ring ditch fill
9	84	Ditch fill

4.2.5 The author rapidly scanned a portion of the flots for charred and waterlogged plant remains using a low-power binocular microscope at x15 magnification. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Results

4.2.6 Table 2 summarises the assessment results for the recovery of charred and waterlogged plant remains from Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire. Charcoal was present in all nine samples however, it was typically very small-sized (<2mm) and frequently poorly preserved. The charcoal recovered does not appear to be of sufficient size to be identifiable to species level in most cases.

4.2.7 In general, the charred plant remains (e.g. weed seeds, cereal grains etc.) were limited (Table 2). The samples were all quite similar, containing small quantities of glume wheat grains, chaff and small weed seeds (eg. *Chenopodium spp.*, and large grass (POACEAE) *caryopses*). The preservation of the cereal grain and chaff was particularly poor, however it was possible to note the presence of glume wheat (*Triticum sp.*). A small number of flax seeds (*Linum usitatissimum*) were observed in three of the samples (Table 2). Flax can be used for fibre and its seeds for oil (linseed).

4.2.8 Snails were well preserved, although not particularly numerous. The majority of snails appear contemporary with the deposit, and include *Vallonia sp.*, a snail typical of grassland, *Carychium sp.* found in leaf litter, rotten wood and grass roots etc, as well as *Lymnaea sp.* (pond snails) (Janus 1965).

4.2.9 The sub-samples processed for waterlogged remains were found to be devoid of any waterlogged material.

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Provisional Date/Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	chaff	weeds	other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	Comments on WPR (WPR 1 L sub-samples)	CPR/WPR Potential	Full Analysis
1	97	Ditch fill	20	undated	100 ml	+	++	+	+		++	++	100% flot scanned. 50% modern roots. Only a few indeterminate charred grains. Indeterminate wheat spikelet forks (<i>Triticum</i> sp.) observed. One linseed seed (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>) noted. Small (>2mm), poorly preserved charcoal pieces. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
2	96	Ring ditch	20	undated	90 ml	+		+			++	++	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. One charred indeterminate wheat grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). Some <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> seeds present. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
3	26	Ring ditch	20	undated	50 ml	+	+	+			++	++	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. A few charred indeterminate wheat grains (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). Some <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> seeds present. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
4	20	Ditch fill	20	undated	100 ml	+	+	+	+		+++	+	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. A few charred grain/ grass caryopses observed. Most indeterminate cereal grain and cereal/ Large grass. One flax seed (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> cf.) noted. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR. FOR CPR	Only modern plant root.	C	No
5	34	Ditch fill	20	undated	100 ml	+	++			+	+++	+	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. A few charred indeterminate wheat grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR FOR CPR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
6	103	Ditch fill	20	undated	70 ml	+	+	+			++	+	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. Some charred indeterminate wheat grains and chaff (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). A few <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> seeds present. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Provisional Date/Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	chaff	weeds	other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	Comments on WPR (WPR 1 L sub-samples)	CPR/WPR Potential	Full Analysis
7		Ditch fill	20	undated	90 ml	+	+	+			++	+	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. Some charred indeterminate wheat grains and chaff (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). A few <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> seeds present. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
8		Ditch fill	20	undated	60ml	+	+			+	++	++	100% of flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. Charcoal present in sample was small and poorly preserved. Some charred indeterminate wheat grains and chaff (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). A few modern <i>Chenopodiaceae</i> and <i>Polygonum</i> sp. seeds present. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No
9		Ditch fill	20	undated	60ml					+	++		100% flot scanned. Modern roots abundant. One linseed seed (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>) noted. Small (>2mm), poorly preserved charcoal pieces. SAMPLE EVALUATED AS POOR.	Only modern plant root.	C	No

Potential

- 4.2.10 The majority of assemblages from Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire have only produced a small quantity of charred plant remains (<50 identifiable items in most cases) and an extremely limited range of taxa. Van der Veen and Fieller (1982) have strongly argued that assemblages of <100 identifications are unlikely to be of interpretable value. In addition, the limited range of charred plant remains recovered from Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor seem unlikely to contribute further to our understanding of plant use at Roman sites in this relatively well-studied region of southern England. However, the samples do indicate that charred plant material including charcoal survives at the site, and any further works may uncover features richer in these remains than the ditches and pit sampled to date.
- 4.2.11 Snails were preserved and offer the potential for limited palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. In the absence of anaerobically preserved deposits it is likely that pollen survival will poor, and that snails would therefore provide the best means of understanding the local palaeoenvironment.

Recommendations

- 4.2.12 At present, it is not recommended that any further analysis should be carried out on the material generated from this watching brief and it is recommended that the WPR flots and surplus soil be discarded, since processing the additional soil is unlikely to produce interpretable CPR assemblages.
- 4.2.13 Should the site be excavated at any point in the future, incremental snail samples should be taken through ditch fills, buried soils and features suspected of being waterholes. Any future sampling for CPR should continue to follow English Heritage and OA sampling guidelines (EH 2002, OA 2000); since the remains appear fairly sparse 40 litres should be taken as the standard sampling volume for CPR. As snails were well preserved but not particularly abundant, it may be necessary to increase the size of incremental snail samples from 2 litres to 10 litres.

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APPENDIX 3 POTTERY REPORT

4.3 Northmoor, Rectory Farm; Roman pottery

by Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeology

Introduction

- 4.3.1 Some 437 sherds (7259 g; 8.95 REs) of pottery were recovered during the watching brief, almost all of mid to late Roman date. The total includes 73 sherds (467 g, 0.53 REs) from the larger fraction of a number of sieved soil samples. This material was recorded. A further 189 fragments (102 g) from the smaller fraction of sieved soil samples were noted but not otherwise examined and are not included in the figures.
- 4.3.2 The pottery (apart from the last mentioned material) was recorded by context group using the system employed for all Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2007). Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes which allow ready comparison between assemblages. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents (REs). The full records are on sheets which are contained in the project archive.
- 4.3.3 The pottery was in reasonable condition, with quite large sherds (average weight 17.2 g), though some sherds were fairly abraded and evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or colour-coating) tended not to survive. This caused problems with the identification of some fabrics, particularly Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (see below).

Fabrics

- 4.3.4 Identification of fabric was at a fairly generalised level, usually at an intermediate stage of the fabric/ware definition hierarchy used in the recording system. The major ware groups represented in the Northmoor assemblage were: S - samian ware, F - fine wares, M - mortarium fabrics, W - white wares, O - oxidised 'coarse' wares, R - reduced 'coarse' wares, B - black-burnished ware and C - calcareous (usually shell-tempered) fabrics. Most sherds were assigned to subgroups of these categories (eg R30, a general grouping for moderately fine sandy reduced wares), though some were identified at the level of specific fabric (eg M22, Oxfordshire white ware mortaria). In view of the fairly small size of the assemblage, more detailed recording of the fabric of each sherd was not justified.
- 4.3.5 Brief descriptions of the fabrics present in the group, or familiar names of well-known wares, are given with quantification in Table 1 below. Fuller descriptions can be found in the documentation of the recording system contained in the project archive.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery fabrics

Ware		No.sh.	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight	REs	% REs
S	samian ware, source uncertain	1	0.2	1	+		
S20	South Gaulish samian ware	1	0.2	3	+	0.03	0.3
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware	16	3.7	289	4.0	0.47	5.3
<i>S subtotal</i>		18	4.1	293	4.0	0.50	5.6
F51	Oxford colour-coated ware	7	1.6	172	2.4	0.12	1.4
OF	?Oxford colour-coated ware (surfaces eroded)	5	1.1	117	1.6	0.30	3.4
<i>F subtotal</i>		12	2.7	289	4.0	0.42	4.7
M22	Oxford white mortarium fabric	9	2.1	489	6.7	0.63	7.0
M31	Oxford white slipped mortarium fabric	1	0.2	67	0.9	0.15	1.7
M41	Oxford red colour-coated mortarium fabric	2	0.5	42	0.6		
<i>M subtotal</i>		12	2.7	598	8.2	0.78	8.7
W11	Oxford parchment ware	1	0.2	41	0.6	0.13	1.5
W12	Oxford white ware	2	0.5	78	1.1		
<i>W subtotal</i>		3	0.7	119	1.6	0.13	1.5
E80	Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' coarse ware	1	0.2	1	+		
O	Oxidised coarse ware unspecified	1	0.2	5	0.1		
O10	Fine oxidised coarse ware fabrics	27	6.2	289	4.0	0.17	1.9
O20	Sandy oxidised coarse ware fabrics	1	0.2	62	0.9	0.08	0.9
O30	Medium sandy oxidised coarse ware fabrics	8	1.8	127	1.7	0.11	1.2
O37	Medium sandy oxidised coarse ware	1	0.2	6	0.1		
O80	Coarse (mainly grog-tempered) oxidised fabrics	1	0.2	11	0.2		
<i>O subtotal</i>		39	8.9	500	6.9	0.36	4.0
R	Reduced coarse ware unspecified	1	0.2	1	+		
R10	Fine reduced coarse ware fabrics	65	14.9	600	8.3	0.88	9.8
R11	Oxford fine reduced coarse ware fabrics	20	4.6	177	2.4	0.48	5.4
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	7	1.6	66	0.9		
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	142	32.5	2276	31.4	2.77	30.9
R37	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware	20	4.6	369	5.1		
R38	As R37 with additional grog inclusions	1	0.2	58	0.8		
R50	Medium sandy reduced with black surfaces	7	1.6	48	0.7		
R86	Fine sandy reduced ware, very micaceous	23	5.3	932	12.8	1.26	14.1
R90	Coarse (mainly grog-tempered) reduced fabrics	6	1.4	102	1.4	0.23	2.6
<i>R subtotal</i>		291	66.6	4629	63.8	5.62	62.8
B11	Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1)	37	8.5	612	8.4	0.86	9.6
B30	Black-burnished ware copies	1	0.2	43	0.6	0.10	1.1
<i>B subtotal</i>		38	8.7	655	9.0	0.96	10.7
C10	Shell tempered ware unspecified	15	3.4	61	0.8	0.02	0.2
C11	Late Roman shell-tempered ware	8	1.8	114	1.6	0.16	1.8
<i>C subtotal</i>		23	5.3	175	2.4	0.18	2.0
TOTAL		437		7259		8.95	

4.3.6 The assemblage was dominated by local or regional products. Imported fabrics consisted exclusively of samian ware, mostly from Central Gaul and the only extra-regional imports were black-burnished ware (BB1, OA fabric B11) from south-east Dorset and a few shell-tempered sherds in fabric C11 which may have derived from the industry at Harrold, Bedfordshire (Brown 1994), although a more local origin is possible.

4.3.7 With the exception of samian ware, all the 'fine and specialist' wares (fine wares, mortaria and white wares) were from the Oxford kilns, as would be expected. Sherds probably of Oxford colour-coated ware, but with no surviving trace of the characteristic

surface treatment, were recorded under a separate heading (OF) from certain Oxford products (F51).

- 4.3.8 It is also assumed that the majority of the oxidised and reduced coarse wares derived from the Oxford industry, but this is less easily demonstrated since other products, potentially even more local in origin, are not necessarily easily distinguished either in terms of fabric or typological range. Fabrics R37, R38 and O37, however, are assigned to a non-Oxford source. This is currently unlocated but thought to lie in the area between Witney and Akeman Street to the north, perhaps in the vicinity of the Akeman Street settlement of Wilcote. These fabrics only comprised a small part of the assemblage, however, although it is possible that other examples were subsumed in the R30 and O30 groupings. A further individual fabric identified in this assemblage was R86. This was a fine slightly sandy fabric, typically (but not invariably) with black surfaces, characterised by the presence of abundant mica inclusions, which produce a particularly striking effect on the black-surfaced sherds. The range of forms identified in this fabric consisted almost entirely of jars, with a single probable example of a beaker of Young (1977) type R34. Typologically these vessels are comparable to the Oxford repertoire, but the marked mica content appears to distinguish fabric R86 from other Oxford products, and a more local source may be suggested.

Vessel types, use and reuse

- 4.3.9 Quantification of vessel types by ware group is given in Table 2. The group is fairly small and therefore susceptible to imbalances based on a few well-represented vessels, but the general pattern is comparable with other assemblages in the regional with a late Roman bias.

Table 2: Quantification (by REs) of vessel types by ware group

Type	Description	Ware group								TOTAL	%
		S	F	M	W	O	R	B	C		
B	Flagon/jug						0.45			0.45	5.0
<i>CD</i>	<i>Medium mouthed jar</i>						<i>1.12</i>			<i>1.12</i>	<i>12.5</i>
<i>CK</i>	<i>'Cooking pot type' jar</i>							<i>0.10</i>		<i>0.10</i>	<i>1.1</i>
<i>CM</i>	<i>Wide mouthed jar</i>					<i>0.08</i>	<i>0.65</i>			<i>0.73</i>	<i>8.2</i>
C	Jar, total, including unspecified subtypes					0.08	3.23	0.10	0.18	3.59	40.1
D	Jar/bowl						0.27			0.27	3.0
E	Beaker						0.85			0.85	9.5
F	Cup	0.06								0.06	0.7
<i>HA</i>	<i>Carinated bowl</i>				<i>0.13</i>					<i>0.13</i>	<i>1.5</i>
<i>HB</i>	<i>Straight sided bowl</i>						<i>0.06</i>	<i>0.25</i>		<i>0.31</i>	<i>3.5</i>
<i>HC</i>	<i>Curving sided bowl</i>		<i>0.10</i>			<i>0.18</i>				<i>0.28</i>	<i>3.1</i>
H	Bowl, total, including unspecified subtypes	0.44	0.42		0.13	0.18	0.19	0.25		1.61	18.0
I/IA	Bowl/dish					0.01		0.03		0.04	0.4
JA	Straight sided dish					0.09	0.34	0.58		1.01	11.8
K	Mortarium			0.78						0.78	8.7
L	Lid						0.29			0.29	3.2
	TOTAL	0.50	0.42	0.78	0.13	0.36	5.62	0.96	0.18	8.95	
	%	5.6	4.7	8.7	1.5	4.0	62.8	10.7	2.0		

Note: Subtotals are in italics

4.3.10 The main feature, determined largely by chronology, is the relatively low proportion of jars, which form only 40% of the assemblage. Open forms (bowls and dishes combined) amounted to another 30%. Flagons/jugs and lids are represented by single vessels only (the former a possible jug form in reduced fabric R30), and the figures for beakers and mortaria are based on only two or three examples of each type. The mortaria included an example of Young type M22, and sherds of type M12 from two different contexts, but perhaps from the same vessel. In terms of individual vessels the assemblage contains no real surprises, the most striking piece being a poppyhead beaker in fine Oxford reduced fabric R11. This vessel, broadly of Young (1977) type R34, had a well-defined, angled and tapered rim more like that of type R32; the present vessel may be seen as a hybrid of the two types (the type R34 vessel in fabric R86, noted above, was a more typical example).

4.3.11 The slightly eroded condition of some of the sherds meant that evidence for use, for example in the form of wear, was not well preserved. A samian ware sherd from topsoil, probably of form 38, did show heavy wear both internally and on the underside of the footring, but such evidence was otherwise scarce. Sooting was noted occasionally, mainly on reduced fabrics. Most notable was the evidence for burning on a number of mortarium sherds, including the M12 vessel(s) already mentioned. A

single white Oxford mortarium sherd, from a different vessel, had a large rivet hole; such evidence for repair of mortaria is rare.

Discussion

- 4.3.12 The assemblage is, as might be expected, very similar to a smaller group recorded from an adjacent area examined in 1995. Together the material indicates settlement activity through the Roman period from the 2nd century onwards; the principal question is how early in the 2nd century did such activity commence. On ceramic evidence this is unlikely to have been much before the middle of the century. A tiny fragment of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (fabric E80) is clearly residual and other 1st century indicators are rare. Although samian ware is reasonably represented this consists almost entirely of Central Gaulish sherds, 1st century South Gaulish material being largely absent. Black-burnished ware is well-represented for a rural assemblage - identifiable forms date from the later 2nd century onwards.
- 4.3.13 The assemblage clearly extends into the 4th century, but may be lacking material of the second half of the century. Relatively few Oxford colour-coated ware sherds were present, suggesting a reduction in the level of 4th century activity. The other Oxford types are not closely dated, but all would be consistent with a late 3rd-early 4th century emphasis for the later activity, while not in themselves precluding the possibility of a later date.
- 4.3.14 The pottery suggests a low status settlement, in socio-economic terms, based on the representation of fine and specialist wares. At just over 10% of the total sherds this places the assemblage at the bottom of the range seen for later Roman rural sites in the Upper Thames Valley, discussed recently (Booth 2004, 46-49, 51).

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APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Rectory Farm, Moreton Lane, Northmoor, Oxfordshire

Site code: NORECF 07

Grid reference: SP 4167 0240

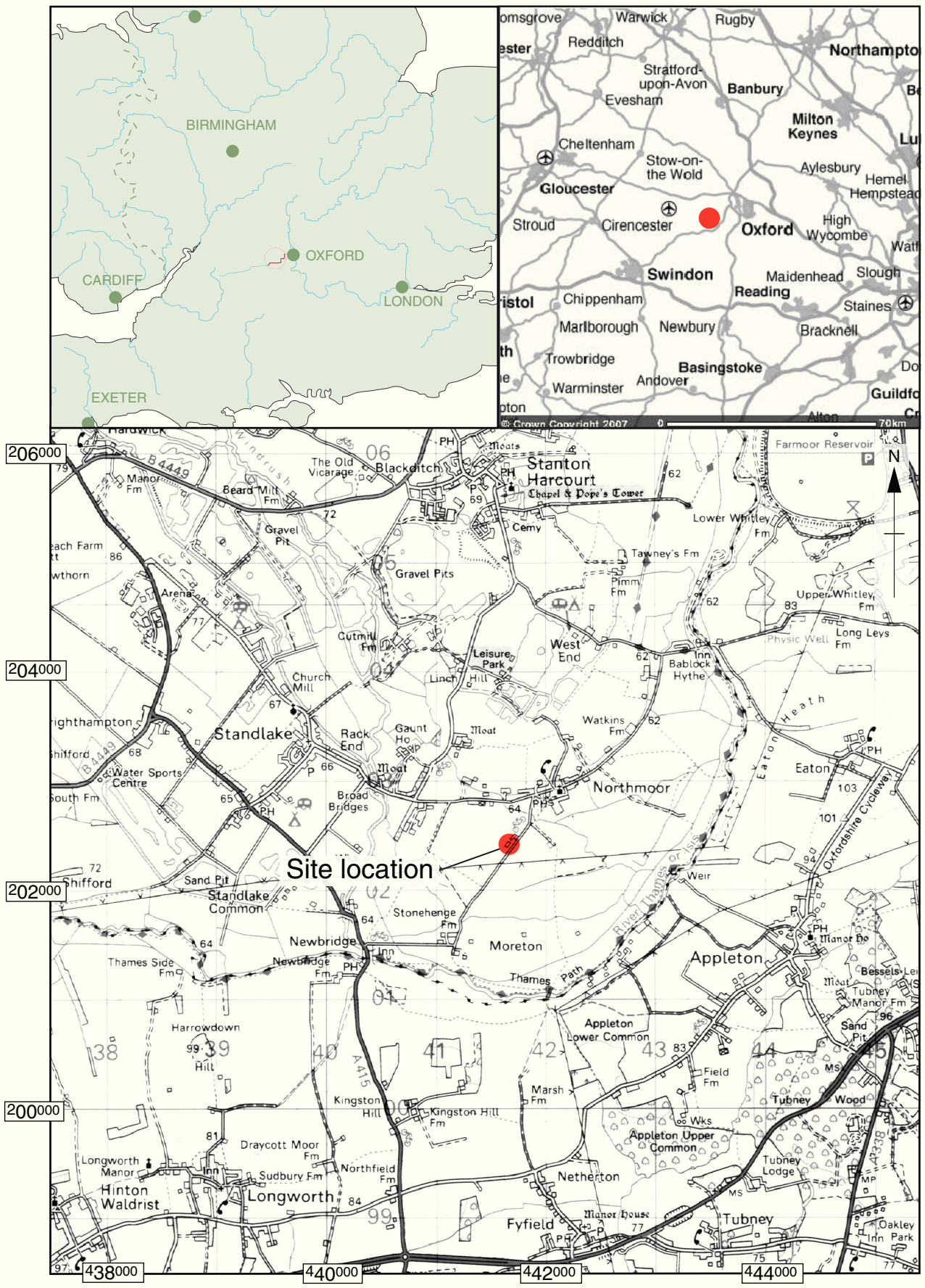
Type of watching brief: Machine reduction of site for area of hardstanding.

Date and duration of project: May 2007 to July 2007, 12 days on site

Area of site: c0.9 hectare

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed a system of Romano-British boundary and drainage ditches showing evidence of multi-phase use, together with a small cluster of four ring ditches also dating to the Romano-British period. No evidence for occupation was observed suggesting that this area was on the margins of the nearby settlement.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2007.17



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Figure 1: Site location

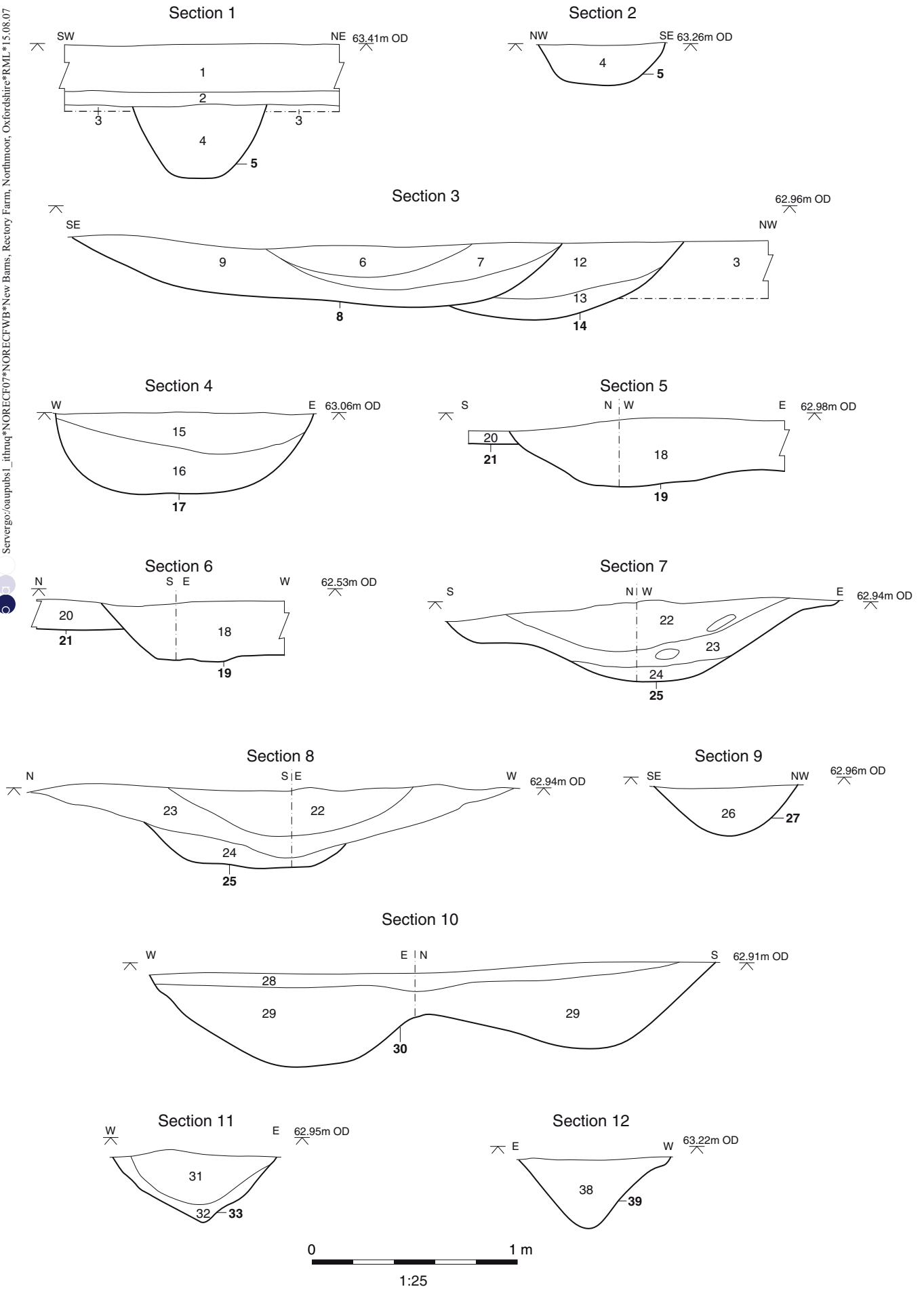


Figure 3: Section 1-12

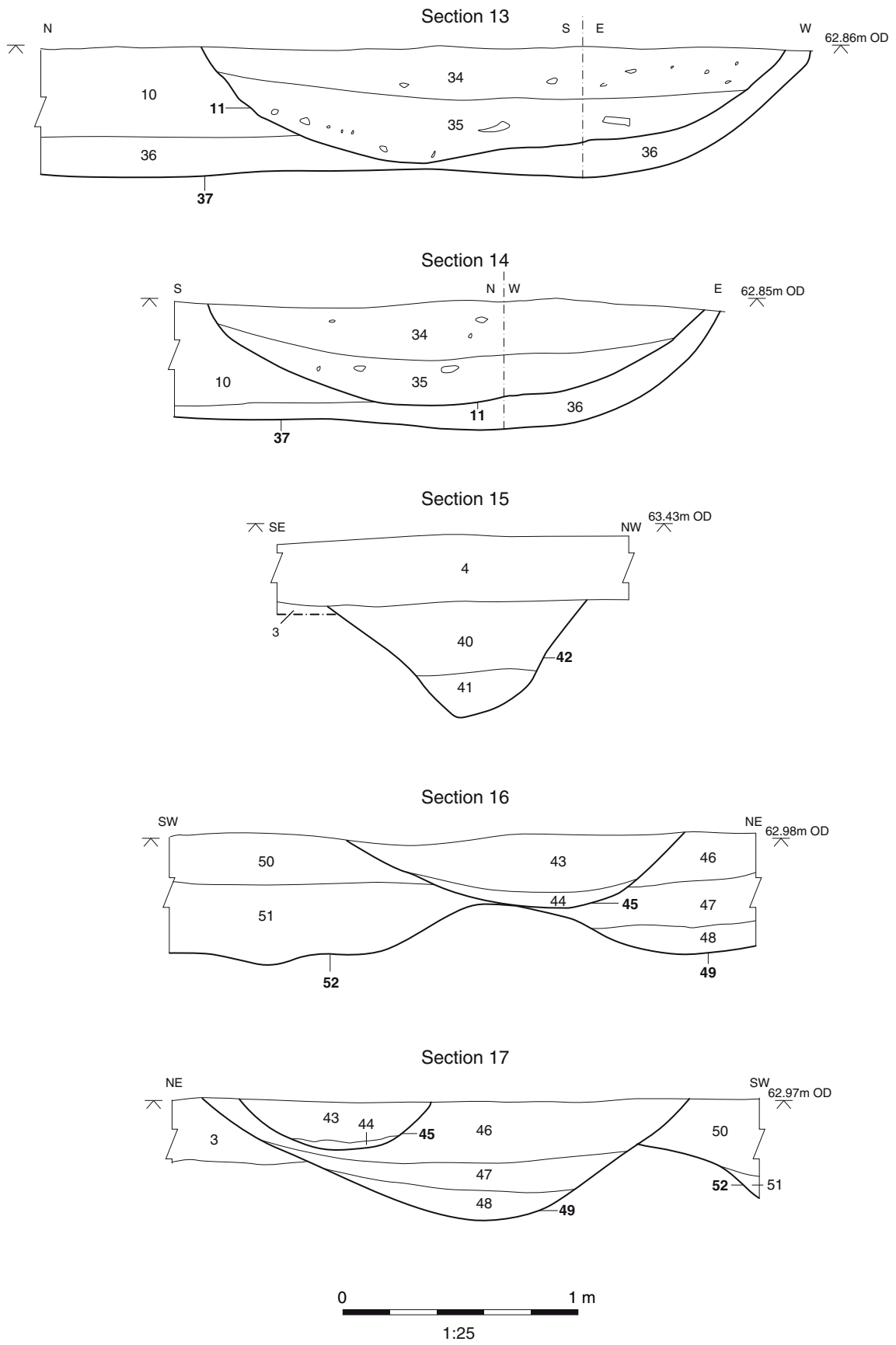
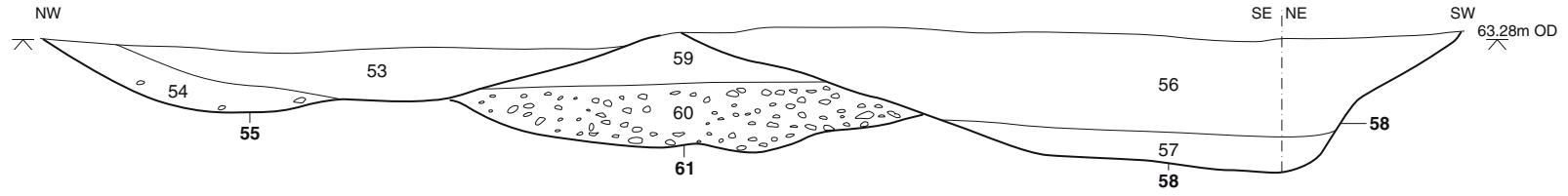
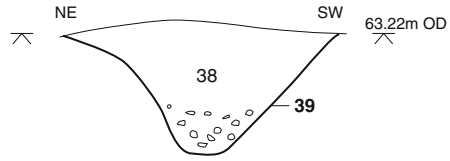


Figure 4: Sections 13 -17

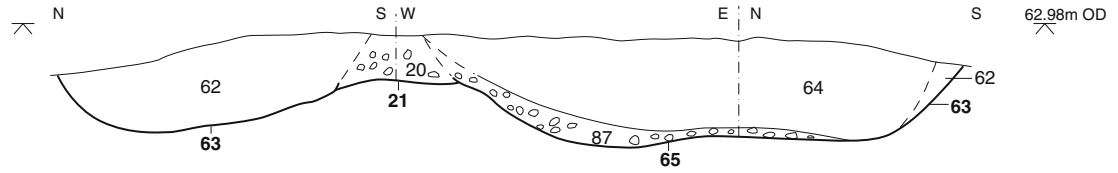
Section 18



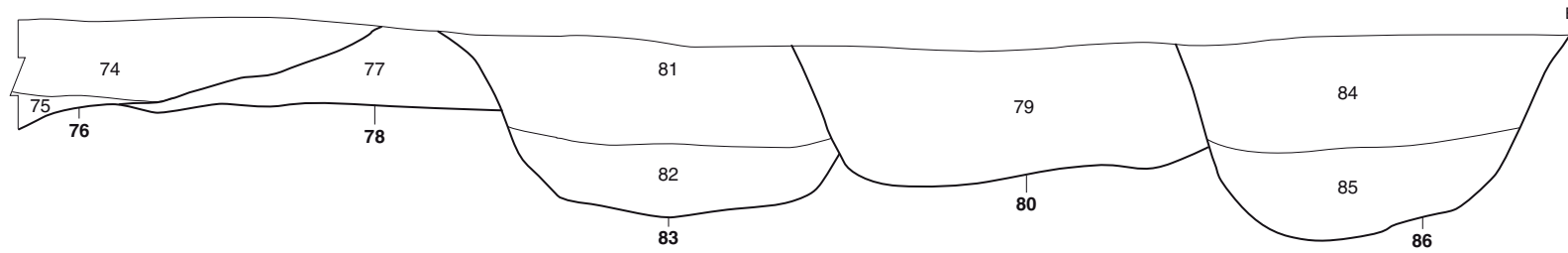
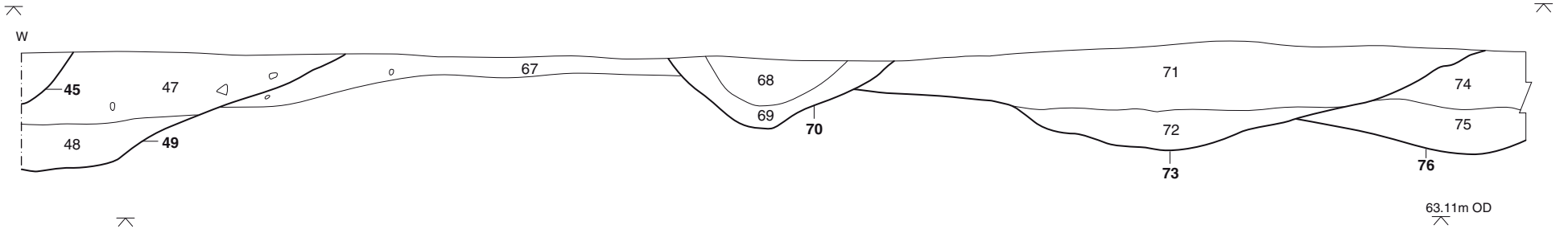
Section 19



Section 20



Section 21



1:25

Figure 5: Sections 18 to 21

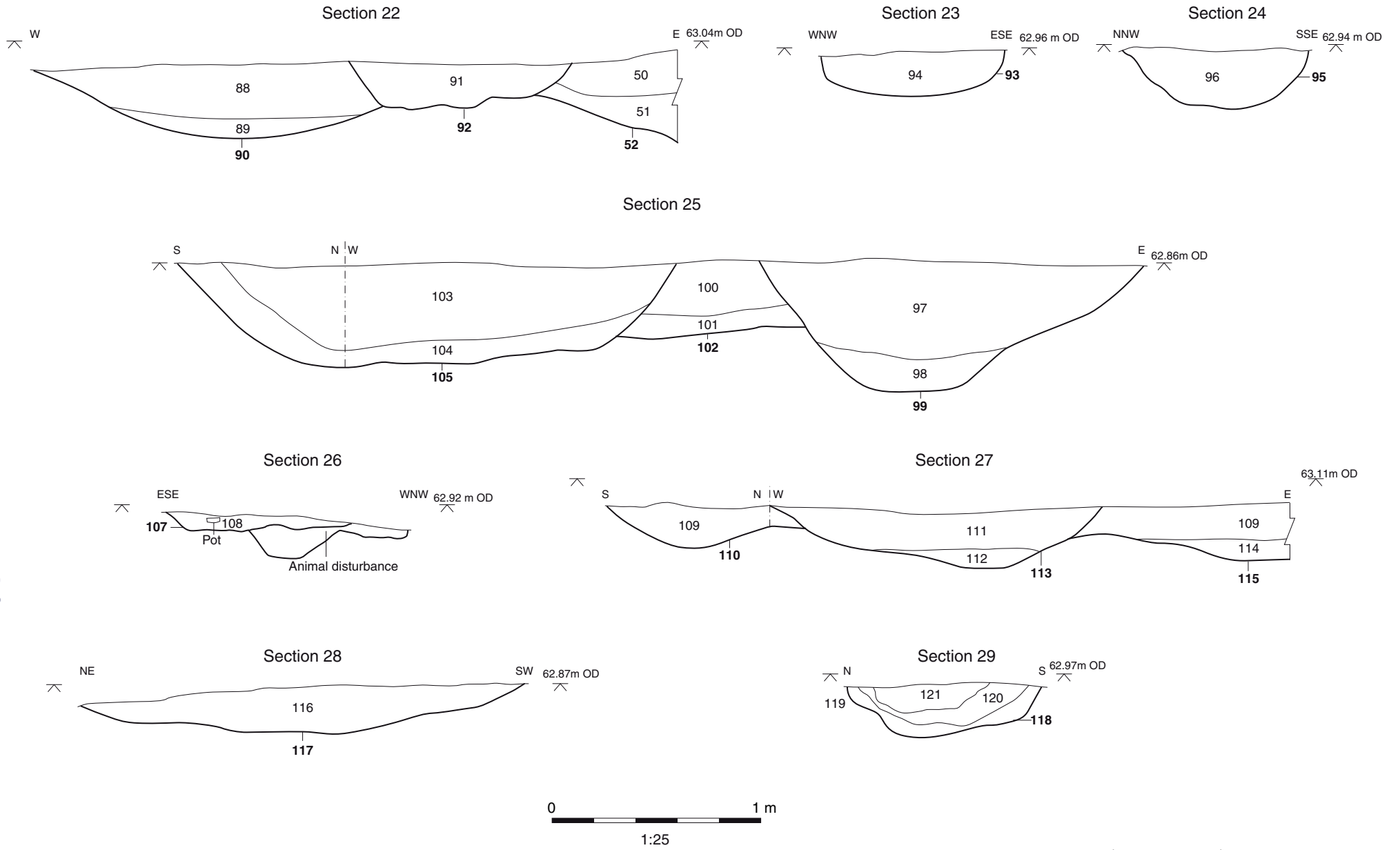


Figure 6: Sections 22 - 29

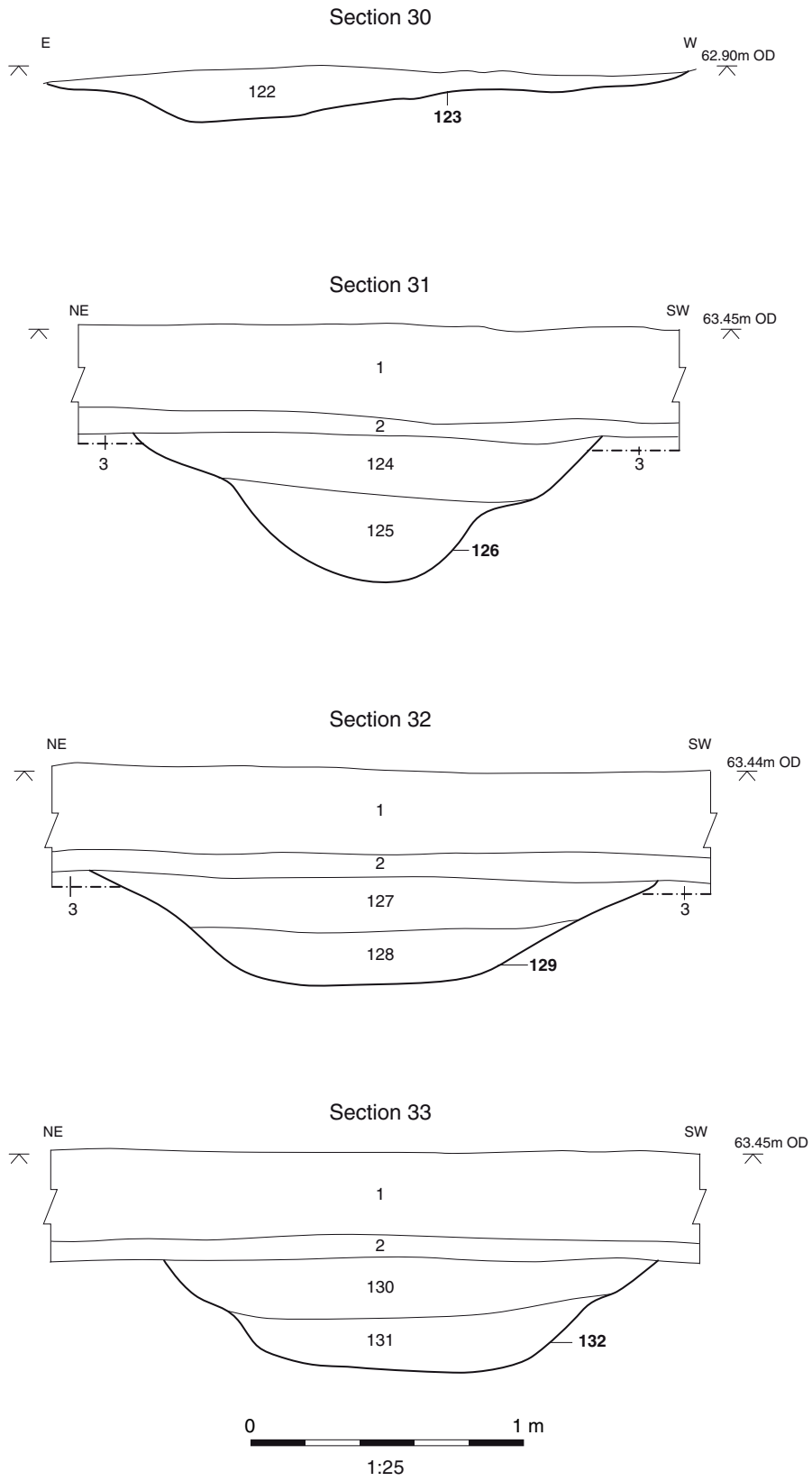


Figure 7: Sections 30 -32

Section 34

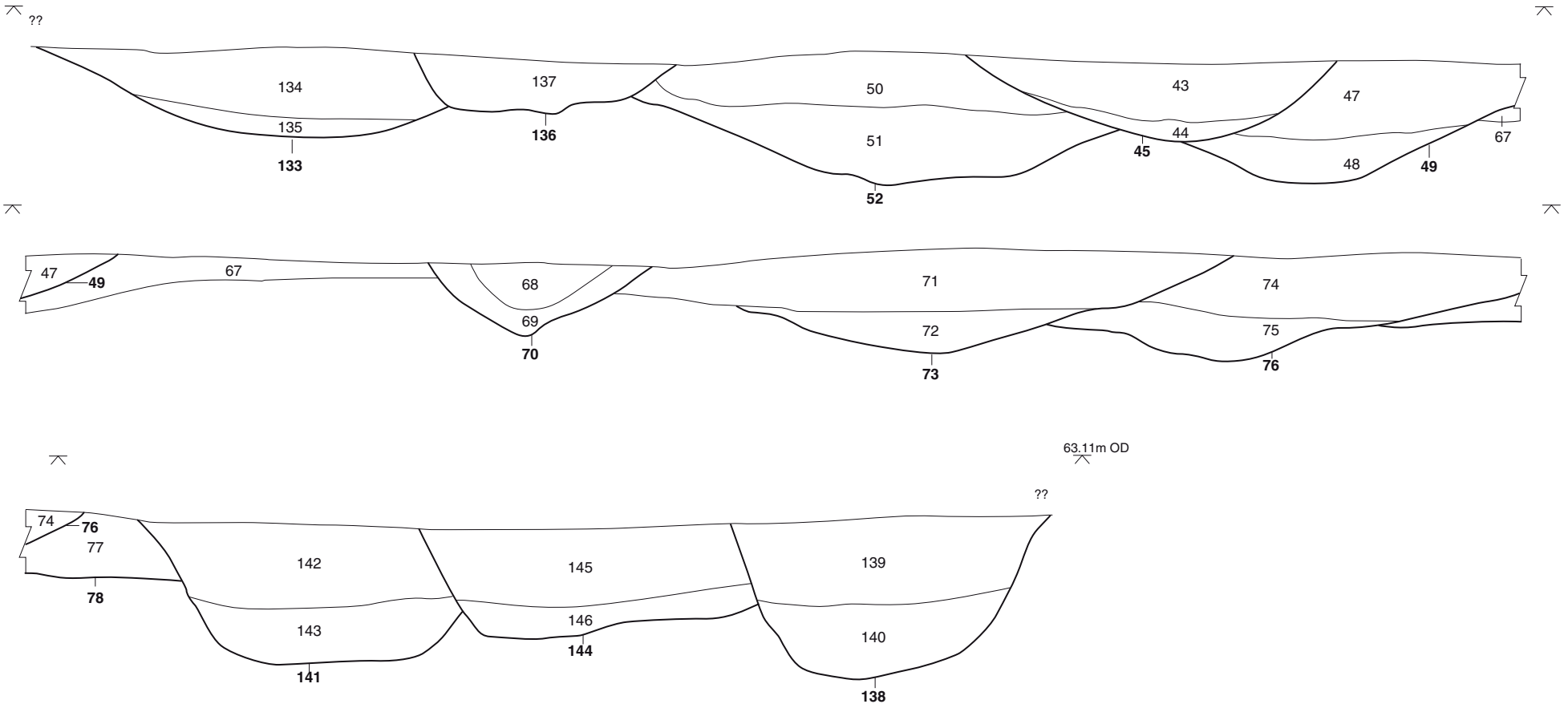


Figure 8: Section 34



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